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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington, D.C. 20250-1340 (202) 720-4330

Letter No. 2619

July 16, 1993

DISASTER ASSISTANCE -- Six midwestern states have been named by Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy as eligible for emergency loans because of crop losses due to heavy rains and flooding. Loans from USDA's Farmers Home Administration will be available to farmers in 304 counties: sixty counties were named in Illinois; all 99 counties in Iowa; 29 counties in Minnesota; 51 counties in Nebraska; 32 counties in South Dakota; and 33 counties in Wisconsin. Farmers will have eight months to apply for the loans that will help cover part of their actual losses. The loans are in addition to the flexibility changes made in farm programs designed to help ease crop losses on producers in the upper midwest. **Contact: Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623.**

SINGLE-FAMILY HOME LOANS -- \$247 million is now available for single-family guaranteed home loans from USDA's Farmers Home Administration. The program ran out funds last April when demand reached high levels. The funding, part of a supplemental appropriations bill signed by President Clinton, will be allocated among the states on a formula that includes original allocation and rate of use figures. Pending applications will receive first priority. The agency's direct loans for housing have continued without interruption. **Contact: Joe O'Neill (202) 720-4323.**

RURAL EMPLOYMENT -- Latest statistics show that employment for rural women increased 2.3 percent compared to a 1.8 percent increase for men in 1992. Employment for rural workers ages 35 to 54 grew by 3.4 percent, larger than for younger and older groups. The proportion of the rural population with jobs was 58.9 percent in 1992, up slightly from a year earlier, and 0.7 percent below the peak in 1989. In urban areas, 62.1 percent of the population was employed in 1992, down slightly from the previous year. **Contact: Timothy Parker (202) 219-0541.**

QUARANTINE LIFTED -- The Oriental fruit fly has been eradicated from southern California. Restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles have been removed. The infestation of the destructive pest of fruits, nuts and berries was brought under control in a cooperative effort of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Oriental fruit flies are not known to exist anywhere in the continental United States. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 436-7255.**

QUARANTINE IMPOSED -- Cotton seed, cotton crops and associated production and processing equipment in Missouri must be inspected and certified as free of pink bollworm before they can leave the state. "The quarantine action is necessary to prevent the interstate movement of pink bollworm into noninfested areas," says Glen Lee, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 436-7255.**

FARM REAL ESTATE OUTLOOK -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasts a one to three percent increase in the per acre value of U.S. farm real estate this year, a range that is just over the two percent rise recorded in 1992. This will mark the seventh consecutive annual increase, bringing the January 1994 average value to \$717, compared to the 1982 record high of \$823. But with inflation exceeding increases in nominal values of farm real estate in recent years, real values have trended lower since their record high in 1981. This trend has flattened in recent years. A key factor in commodity prices and economic returns, and therefore to farm real estate, will be the outcomes of current trade negotiations. **Contact: Roger Hexem (202) 219-0423.**

SALMONELLA OUTBREAKS -- The warm and humid weather of summer increases the risk of a Salmonella enteritidis outbreak. During the past three years 45 percent of all Salmonella outbreaks occurred between June 1 and August 31. Although many types of food can become contaminated with the bacteria, items that are particularly susceptible are meat, poultry, eggs and milk. Of these items about 31 percent of the outbreaks were caused by fresh eggs. Some food handling tips from USDA to help reduce the risk of foodborne illness throughout the year: Don't leave food at room temperature for more than two hours; keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold; use clean utensils and dishes to prepare foods; buy only eggs that are refrigerated, clean and unbroken; and use pasteurized eggs in all recipes calling for raw eggs. **Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898.**

MEETING SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS -- Rural communities face major decisions and costs in meeting new Federal solid waste regulations. Researchers at the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service are evaluating solid waste programs such as recycling, incineration, landfilling, and shipping to other states. New requirements for landfill construction require increased expenditures. Sales of recycled material doesn't offset the costs of collection, storage and delivery. Incinerators can cause air pollution and are expensive to build. The Extension researchers are looking at the best mix of options available to county governments to help them deal with the complicated issue of garbage disposal. **Contact: Andy Keeler (706) 542-0849.**

REALISTIC DIETING GOALS -- Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service have found that the amount of fatty acids circulating in the blood while dieters burn stored fat during exercise is an indicator of how fast or slow dieters will lose fat. An equation has been produced that is being tested on overweight and obese individuals of both sexes. When ready, the equation could help dieters set realistic goals and assist in better tailoring each individual's weight loss plan. **Contact: Teresa Barbieri (415) 556-8821.**

CROP PRODUCTION -- Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.8 billion bushels, 13 percent above 1992 results. Average yield should be 41 bushels an acre. Spring wheat for 1993 is forecast at 699 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year's record level. Yield is expected to be 39 bushels an acre, down 2 bushels per acre from last year. Durum wheat is forecast at 81 million bushels, down 17 percent from last year. Oat production is forecast at 263 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. The 1993 apple crop is expected to total 10.8 billion pounds, one percent higher than last year. U.S. production of peaches is forecast at 2.8 billion pounds, nearly the same as last year. Production of pears should reach 947,300 tons, two percent more than the 1992 crop. The grapefruit crop is forecast at 2.7 million tons, up 26 percent from last season.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1884 -- Parenting skills are discussed with **Billie Frazier**, human development specialist at the University of Maryland Extension Service. **Brenda Curtis** reports. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME #1366 -- Truth in food advertising; Mississippi River project; saving the kelp and urchins too; teenage parents; loans for rural housing. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1876 -- USDA News Highlights; floods lower crop outlook; emergency loans for midwestern farmers; flooded cropland assistance; Africanized bees reach Arizona. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1629 -- Cardiovascular danger signal; carotenoids & your health; nutrient database; Africanized bees reach Arizona; TERRA tracks global change. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Tuesday, July 27, crop & weather update, vegetable outlook; Thursday, July 29, catfish production, farm numbers; Friday, July 30, ag prices; Monday, August 2, horticultural exports; Tuesday, August 3, cotton/wool update, crop & weather update. These are the **USDA reports we know about in advance**. Our **Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup**. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling.

USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359, COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545.
Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES -- **DeBoria Janifer** reports on a new project in Maryland that provides fresh vegetables to people in need; **Pat O'Leary** takes a look at computer landscaping.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA world board chairman **James Donald** on crop production estimates and flood damage in the midwest; USDA meteorologist **Bob Stefanski** on weather and crop situation; USDA economist **Lewrene Glaser** on industrial uses of agricultural materials.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- **DeBoria Janifer** reports on a watermelon festival; **Pat O'Leary** reports on beating the barnyard blues.

EVERY OTHER WEEK -- Agriculture Update with anchors **Eric Parsons** and **Lori Spiczka**. 4:30 of USDA farm program information in news desk format with B-roll.

Available on Satellite Galaxy 6, channel 23, audio 6.2 or 6.8, downlink frequency 4160 MHz.: Thursdays from 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT, Saturdays from 10 - 10:30 a.m., EDT, and Mondays from 8 - 8:30 a.m., EDT.

OFFMIKE

GRAIN ELEVATORS...won't accept grain because they can't ship it until flood waters recede in late July, says **Kevin Morse** (WOC, Davenport, IA). Elevator operators have stopped giving July prices and are quoting only August grain. Kevin says many producers could not plant a crop this year, and are seeking changes in the crop insurance program that will provide relief. Kevin says the long-range forecast is for rain.

MANY PRODUCERS...in southeastern Minnesota will get a crop because much of the farmland is high ridge, says **Jerry Papenfuss** (KAGE, Winona), but the hay crop is questionable.

THE THING THAT WORRIES ME...is the plummeting attitude, says **Don Wick** (KWOA, Worthington, MN). There will be no crop this year due to flooding. Farmers marketed the 1992 crop early because of its low quality, and therefore have nothing to sell this year. Their bins are empty. Don says it's hitting the young guys hard.

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THE PEANUT CROP...was getting into trouble because of dryness, says **Gene Ragan** (WTVY, Dothan, AL), but rain arrived in time. Much of the stressed corn crop was lost in his region. Gene says the first Southeast-wide Quality Harvest Clinic will be held in Dothan, August featuring an equipment display and providing farmers information about improving the quality of peanuts.

FARM PROGRAMMING...begins in mid-August on WHB, Kansas City. **Lynn Watts**, formerly of WOC, Davenport, IA will be doing the honors. The station will be linking with **Jay Truitt** (KMZU/KOAL/KTRX, Carrollton, MO).

COUNTY FAIR...season has arrived, says **Rita Frazer** (WSMI Litchfield, IL). She is broadcasting live from the sites. Rita says the corn and beans went in late, but producers were able to plant.

MOVED...**Valerie Parks** from ABN Radio/TV, Columbus, OH to sales manager at WUCO, Marysville, OH.

VIC POWELL 
Chief, Radio & TV Division